

ireeiy, and were to be governed by their own **judges** and their own laws, terms honourably kept by the conquerors for over a hundred years. Palermo thus taken, Guiscard appointed as governor of the city a Norman officer to whom he gave the name *ammiratus* or "emir," and ordered to be built a palace or rather a citadel in the south of the city where now stands the royal palace. There followed a great enfeoffment of Sicily. Roger was invested by his brother as Count of Sicily, but Guiscard retained the suzerainty of the island and the actual possession of Palermo, the Val Demone, and the half of Messina. Fiefs were also given to Serlo and Arisgot.

The capture of Palermo and the gradual conquest of Sicily were a deadly blow to Islam. For two centuries the Moslems had not only held this island, but they had contested from it Lower Italy with Greek, German, a'nd Lombard. Henceforth Sicily was to be in the hands of a Latin and Catholic race. From Sicily again the Normans would in future threaten Moslem Africa; in occupying that island they drove, as it were, a wedge into the mass of Mohammedan states that stretched from the Tigris to the Ebro, In this they are the true precursors of the

Crusades,

There 'were twenty years of
conquest before
Roger yet. The fall of Palermo led to
the sub-
mission of the Mazzara and the
country about it,
Yet the Moslems held out in the Val
Demone itself,
in the mountain region between
Messina, Taor-